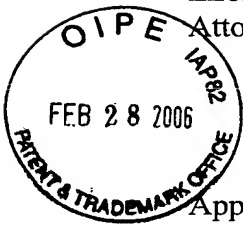


ITW

Application No. 10/540,742  
Information Disclosure Statement Dated February 24, 2006  
Attorney Docket No. 0388-051896



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/540,742 ✓ Confirmation No. 2393  
Applicants : Shinichi KAWABATA et al.  
Filed : June 24, 2005  
Title : QUALITY EVALUATION APPARATUS FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES  
Group Art Unit : 2877  
Examiner : Not Yet Assigned  
Customer No. : 28289

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to the requirements of 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, the Applicants hereby submit this Information Disclosure Statement together with a completed Form PTO/SB/08A.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 24, 2006.

Kay E. Yetter  
(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Signature

02/24/2006

Date

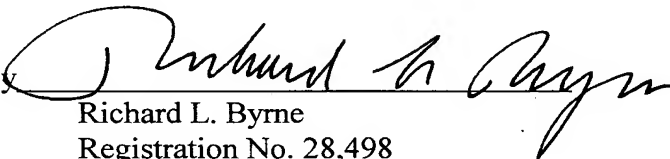
Application No. 10/540,742  
Information Disclosure Statement Dated February 24, 2006  
Attorney Docket No. 0388-051896

This application is the United States national phase of PCT publication WO 2004/059300 and Application No. PCT/JP2003/016536. The International Search Report (ISR) dated April 20, 2004, and International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER) of February 18, 2005 for the underlying PCT application identify the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A, with the exception of the final three Japanese references. In addition, Japanese reference JP 63-81226 is equivalent to U.S. Patent No. 4,828,387, which is also cited on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A. Japanese reference JP 2002-090301 is cited in the instant specification and is relevant for the reasons discussed therein. The final two references may be of interest. The references cited in the ISR and IPER are relevant for the reasons stated therein. An English language translation of the IPER mailed by the IB on November 10, 2005 is also enclosed, along with English translations of the Japanese references cited therein.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), no fee is due for the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement, which is being submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

The Commissioner for Patents, however, is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650. One (1) original and one (1) copy of this Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,  
THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By 

Richard L. Byrne  
Registration No. 28,498  
Attorney for Applicants  
700 Koppers Building  
436 Seventh Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Telephone: (412) 471-8815  
Facsimile: (412) 471-4094  
E-mail: webblaw@webblaw.com



PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

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Approved for use through 10/31/2001. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/540,742
				Filing Date	June 24, 2005
				First Named Inventor	Shinichi Kawataba
				Group Art Unit	2877
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	Of	1	Attorney Docket Number	0388-051896

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number Code <sup>2</sup>	Kind			
		4,828,387		Sawyers et al.	05-09-1989	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T 6
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>				
		JP 2002-107294		A	Kubota Corp.	04-10-2002	English Trans Only	
		JP 2002-077522		A	Casio Comput Co. Ltd.	03-15-2002	English Trans Only	
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		JP 08-005550			Kubota Corp.	01-12-1996	English Trans Attached	
		JP 05-045212			Juki Corp.	02-23-1993	English Trans Attached	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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